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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/913,694	09/24/2001	Stefan Bouissou	8-1032-167	2686
803	7590	11/19/2002	EXAMINER	
HENDERSON & STURM LLP 1213 MIDLAND BUILDING 206 SIXTH AVENUE DES MOINES, IA 50309-4076			NGUYEN, TRAN N	
		ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER
		2834		

DATE MAILED: 11/19/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/913,694	BOUSSOU, STEFAN
	Examiner Tran N. Nguyen	Art Unit 2834

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____ .
- 2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) 1-10 is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____ .
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____ . |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 5 . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____ . |

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the following must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s):

- (a) Engine shaft has one end directed toward the frontal wall, as in claim 1,
- (b) A stator part coaxially with the engine shaft, as in claim 1,
- (c) External component having a radial flange (11) secured to the engine shaft, as in claim 2,
- (d) A pulley (6) situated at the output of the engine shaft is arranged between the casing (3) and the retarded (1), as in claim 8.

The applicant is reminded that while changing the drawings, ***no new matter should be entered.***

A proposed drawing correction or corrected drawings are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

The specification is objected because its format does not comply with the U.S PTO guidelines. The following guidelines illustrate the preferred layout for the specification of a utility application. These guidelines are suggested for the applicant's use.

Arrangement of the Specification

As provided in 37 CFR 1.77(b), the specification of a utility application should include the following sections in order. Each of the lettered items should appear in upper case, without

underlining or bold type, as a section heading. If no text follows the section heading, the phrase "Not Applicable" should follow the section heading:

- (a) TITLE OF THE INVENTION.
- (b) CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATIONS.
- (c) STATEMENT REGARDING FEDERALLY SPONSORED RESEARCH OR DEVELOPMENT.
- (d) INCORPORATION-BY-REFERENCE OF MATERIAL SUBMITTED ON A COMPACT DISC (See 37 CFR 1.52(e)(5) and MPEP 608.05. Computer program listings (37 CFR 1.96(c)), "Sequence Listings" (37 CFR 1.821(c)), and tables having more than 50 pages of text are permitted to be submitted on compact discs.) or
REFERENCE TO A "MICROFICHE APPENDIX" (See MPEP § 608.05(a).
"Microfiche Appendices" were accepted by the Office until March 1, 2001.)
- (e) BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION.
 - (1) Field of the Invention.
 - (2) Description of Related Art including information disclosed under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
- (f) BRIEF SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION.
- (g) BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE SEVERAL VIEWS OF THE DRAWING(S).
- (h) DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE INVENTION.
- (i) CLAIM OR CLAIMS (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (j) ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE (commencing on a separate sheet).
- (k) SEQUENCE LISTING (See MPEP § 2424 and 37 CFR 1.821-1.825. A "Sequence Listing" is required on paper if the application discloses a nucleotide or amino acid sequence as defined in 37 CFR 1.821(a) and if the required "Sequence Listing" is not submitted as an electronic document on compact disc).

Claim Objections

Claims 1-10 are objected due to the following formal matter:

In claims 1-10, the terms “*which*”, “*this*”, “*these*”, “*those*”, “*it*”, “*its*” and “*itself*” do not clearly set a reference nor antecedent basis for the intendedly referred subject matter. Therefore, these terms in the claims should be replaced with appropriately established antecedent-basis subject matter, for example: “*this engine having a casing (3) which itself comprises a frontal wall*” should be changed to “**said engine having a casing (3), wherein said casing comprises a frontal wall**”.

In claim 1,

“*Eddy current electromagnetic retarded (1) intended to slow the rotation of an engine shaft driven about its axis (x), particularly the crankshaft of a vehicle engine (M)*”

should be changed to

“**Eddy current electromagnetic retarder (1) [intended to slow] for reducing [the] rotation of a crankshaft of a vehicle engine (M) [an engine shaft] driven about [its] an axis (X), [particularly the crankshaft of a vehicle engine (M)]”**

In claims 1-10, the applicant is strongly advice to ensure that **all subject matters recited in the claimed language should have clearly established antecedent basis.**

One of many unclear antecedent basis is, for example, the term “the engine shaft”, “the output shaft” and “the crank shaft” appear to be used interchangeable, this would not clearly establish antecedent basis for the shaft. The term should be consisted as “*the crankshaft*”.

Claim 9 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c) as being in improper form because claim 9 is a multiple dependent claim, which depends from claim 8 as associated with claim 2. See MPEP § 608.01(n).

Accordingly, the claim 9 should be changed to the following:

*The retarder as claimed in **claim 1**, characterized in that the rotor part (2) has an external component of substantially cylindrical shape surrounding the stator part (4) and constituting the armature of the retarder (1), said external component having a radial flange (11) secured to the crankshaft, wherein said flange being pierced with a number of holes; said retarder further comprises a pulley (6) being situated at an output of said crankshaft and arranged between said casing (3) of said vehicle engine (M) and said retarder, wherein said flange of said external component (2) incorporates the pulley.*

The above-suggested claim 9 incorporates the limitations of claims 2 and 8 as the applicant intended; however, via reciting all limitations of claims 2 and 8, claim 9 can be written to depend directly from claim 1, instead of the improper multiple dependencies.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the aforementioned formal matters.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Allowable Subject Matter

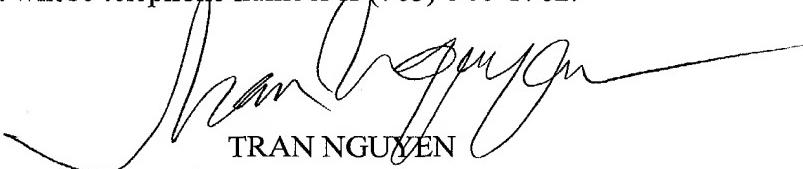
Claims 1-10 would be allowed if rewritten to overcome the above aforementioned objections as well as rewritten to incorporate the Examiner's suggestions.

Communication

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tran N Nguyen whose telephone number is (703) 308-1639. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 6:00AM-2:30PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Nestor Ramirez can be reached on (703)-308-1371. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703)305-3431 for regular communications and (703)-395-3432 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)-308-1782.



TRAN NGUYEN

PRIMARY PATENT EXAMINER

TC-2800